

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3214

May 14, 2018

Lieutenant General Todd T. Semonite
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers
United States Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000

Dear Lieutenant General Semonite:

On October 25, 2012, Superstorm Sandy, the worst natural disaster in modern history to strike New York, devastated our city and took a substantial toll on coastal communities in the area. The Army Corps of Engineers immediately began their response operations, providing invaluable and life-saving support to affected areas. They have since carried out longer-term assessment and recovery efforts. As the Corps continues to undertake resiliency and long-term planning and prevention efforts, I urge you to focus on areas of the eastern Bronx that were hit particularly hard by Sandy and take steps to assist in making shoreline communities more resilient to future storms and flooding.

When the superstorm hit, neighborhoods in the Bronx such as Edgewater, Throgs Neck, Pelham Bay, Locust Point, and City Island along the eastern coast of the Bronx suffered severe damage, experiencing flooding, power outages and significant property damages. The storm wreaked havoc across the borough, knocking down trees, power lines, street signs, and anything in its way. It flooded streets, homes, businesses, and subway stations - leaving tens of thousands without power and millions of dollars' worth of damages. The Throgs Neck seawall for example, despite withstanding the storm, was badly damaged. Today, almost five years later, it remains battered, crumbling, and unlikely to survive another storm. These structures and others across the eastern shore require investment and fortification.

In the aftermath of the storm, the Corps played a major role in securing safety on the ground and restoring city operations back to normal. In the time since, your agency has continued making significant progress on recovery projects such as restoring beaches and strengthening infrastructure to prepare for future flooding or storms across the region. Additionally, the Corps conducted a two-year North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study, to address the risk of coastal storms and flooding to communities, property, and infrastructure affected by Hurricane Sandy. The study was focused on better understanding the changing risks associated with flooding and on providing recommendations that communities can use to better prepare for future risks. While I appreciate the attention given to New York, communities in the eastern shore of the Bronx that saw severe flooding must receive further attention to adequately endure future risks.

Lt. Gen. Semonite

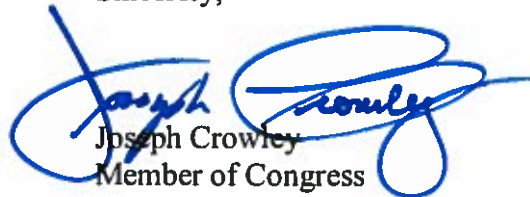
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Given the positive work that the Army Corps has done on the North Atlantic coast to promote resiliency, I would like to encourage you to explore other projects along the eastern shore of the Bronx that will improve resiliency and include requests for funding such efforts in your submissions to Congress. I believe those communities of the Bronx that were most affected by the storm would strongly benefit from the understanding of future risk based on these studies and recommendations on how to prepare for and mitigate these risks.

I want to thank the Army Corps of Engineers for the diligent work done so far, and I look forward to working with you to strengthen the safety and coastal resiliency of the Bronx.

Sincerely,



Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress